In the Claims

Claims 34-42 were previously cancelled.

Amend claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7-18, 20, 23, 24-27, 30-33 and 43 as shown below. Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikethroughs~~ or double brackets [[ ]] indicate deletions.

1. (Currently amended) A fishing pole comprising:

a handle assembly having a handle portion and a plurality of stackable weights, the weights configured for mounting on an end of the handle portion, and each having a cross-sectional outer surface profile configured in assembly to match a cross-sectional outer surface profile of an end portion of the handle portion such that the handle portion and the plurality of stackable weights cooperate to provide a hand grip surface; and

a rod carried by the handle assembly; ~~, wherein~~

wherein ~~the handle assembly includes one or more~~ the plurality of stackable weights are configured to be removably mounted to the handle assembly to shift a center-of-mass of the fishing pole.

2. (Currently amended) The fishing pole of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ one or more of the plurality of stackable weights are removably attached to the ~~fishing pole~~ handle portion to shift the center-of-mass of the fishing pole between different positions in order to customize counter-balance of the fishing pole according to user preferences.

3. (Original) The fishing pole of claim 1, wherein the handle assembly comprises:

a first handle portion; and

a second handle portion removably attached to the first handle portion.

4. (Currently amended) The fishing pole of claim 3, wherein the second handle portion has a selected length for tailoring a centroid of the fishing pole.

5. (Original) The fishing pole of claim 3, wherein the second handle portion is configured to pivot about a point where the second handle portion attaches to the first handle portion.

6. (Currently amended) The fishing pole of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the handle assembly comprises a first handle portion and a second handle portion, and wherein the first handle portion and the second handle ~~portions~~ portion are integrally formed together.

7. (Currently amended) The fishing pole of claim 3, wherein the second handle portion comprises the handle portion having a longitudinal member ~~having~~ with proximal and distal end portions, and wherein the proximal end portion is located adjacent the first handle portion and the distal end portion is located away from the first handle portion.

8. (Currently amended) The fishing pole of claim 7, wherein the ~~one or more~~ plurality of stackable weights are ~~provided adjacent~~ affixed onto the distal end portion of the second handle portion.

9. (Currently amended) The fishing pole of claim 5, wherein the distal end portion comprises a female ~~engagement grooves~~ threaded portion configured to receive a complementary male ~~engagement grooves~~ threaded portion provided on an end member configured to receive the ~~one or more~~ plurality of stackable weights.

10. (Currently amended) The fishing pole of claim 9, wherein ~~the one or more~~ each of the plurality of stackable weights ~~comprise~~ comprises a cylindrical bore.

11. (Currently amended) The fishing pole of claim 9, wherein ~~the one or more~~ each of the plurality of stackable weights ~~comprise~~ comprises a substantially equal radius.

12. (Currently amended) The fishing pole of claim 9, wherein the ~~one or more weights~~ plurality of stackable weights and the second handle portion have substantially equal radii, wherein upon assembly, the ~~one or more~~ weights and the second handle portion appear to be integrally formed along an exposed outer surface.

13. (Currently amended) The fishing pole of claim 9, wherein the end member comprises a screw arranged in threaded engagement with a recess provided in the distal end of the second handle portion to attach selected ones of the ~~one or more~~ plurality of stackable weights carried by the end member to the handle assembly.

14. (Currently amended) The fishing pole of claim 9, wherein the ~~insertion~~ end member comprises:

a head;

a shank having first and second ends, wherein the first end is attached to the head, and the second end includes the complementary male ~~engagement grooves~~ threaded portion configured to be received by the female ~~engagement grooves~~ threaded portion in the distal end portion of the second handle portion.

15. (Currently amended) The fishing pole of claim 14, wherein the shank is configured to receive the one or more weights via ~~the~~ a cylindrical bore provided in each of the ~~respective~~ one or more weights.

16. (Currently amended) The fishing pole of claim 1, wherein a cross-sectional contour of the ~~one or more weight members~~ plurality of stackable weights follows substantially a cross-sectional outer surface contour of the handle assembly configured to receive the weight members.

17. (Currently amended) The fishing pole of claim 1, wherein ~~the one or more weights~~ each of the plurality of stackable weights consists of one of a ~~comprise~~ metal, metal with reinforced plastic, and ~~magnets~~ a magnet.

18. (Currently amended) A counter-balancing apparatus for a fishing pole handle, comprising:

~~one or more weight members configured to be received by a handle assembly of the fishing pole, the handle assembly including at least one handle portion~~ a handle assembly including at least one handle portion and a plurality of stackable weight members each having an outer surface radius "r" that is substantially equal to an outer surface radius "r1" of the lower handle assembly;

wherein the at least one handle portion is configured to removably receive the ~~one or more~~ plurality of stackable weight members to ~~cause~~ impart a transfer of a center-of-gravity of the fishing pole between different positions~~,~~ ; and

wherein ~~the one or more weight members and the at least one handle portion have substantially equal radii so that, upon assembly,~~ the ~~one or more~~ plurality of stackable weight members ~~appear to be integrally formed~~ conform substantially with an outer surface of the at least one handle portion so as to provide an outer hand grip surface.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the handle assembly comprises:

a first handle portion; and

a second handle portion located adjacent the first handle portion.

20. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first handle

portion is configured to support a fishing rod and the second handle portion is configured to support the ~~one or more~~ plurality of stackable weight members.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the second handle portion pivots about a point of attachment of the second handle portion to the first handle portion.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first and second handle portions are integrally formed and lie on a common plane.

23. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the ~~one or more~~ plurality of stackable weight members have substantially equal exposed outer surface radii.

24. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the ~~one or more~~ plurality of stackable weight members have ~~a~~ an outer surface contour that is substantially similar in dimension to ~~a~~ an outer surface contour of the ~~at least one~~ handle portion.

25. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein ~~the one or more weight members and the at least one handle portion have substantially equal radii~~ the plurality of stackable weight members comprise a first weight member having a first mass and a second weight member having a second mass different than the mass of the first weight member, and wherein the first weight member has a visible outer surface

comprising a first color and the second weight member has a visible outer surface comprising a second color visually perceptible as being different than the first color to color code and identify the different masses of the first weight member and the second weight member.

26. (Currently amended) An apparatus for counter-balancing a handle, comprising:

~~one or more~~ a set of stackable balancing weight members configured to be removably supported by a handle of the fishing pole;

a handle portion having a female threaded end portion; and

an end fastener having a male threaded portion configured to removably mate with the female threaded end portion for removably supporting a selected plurality of the weight members along an end of the handle portion;

wherein the ~~one or more~~ set of stackable balancing weight members are configured to produce a counter-balancing weight on the handle by relocating a centroid of the handle between different positions with an outer surface of the stackable balancing weight members providing an outer grip surface with a cross-sectional surface profile that substantially matches a cross-sectional surface profile of the end of the handle portion so as to extend an outer grip surface of the handle portion.

27. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the handle comprises:

first and second handle portions configured to support a fishing rod and the ~~one or more~~ set of stackable balancing weight members, respectively.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the first and second handle portions pivot about a point of attachment of the first handle portion to the second handle portion.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the first and second handle portions are integrally formed.

30. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the ~~one or more~~ set of balancing weight members have substantially equal diameter and distinct mass.

31. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the ~~one or more~~ set of balancing weight members have a surface contour that is substantially similar to a surface contour of the handle.

32. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the ~~one or more~~ set of balancing weight members and the handle have substantially equal radii.

33. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the ~~one or more~~ set of balancing weight members and the handle have substantially equal radii to render the balancing weight members to appear as being integrally formed upon assembly of the weight members to the handle.

34-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently amended) A handle for a fishing pole, comprising:

a structural member for supporting a fishing reel; and

~~at least one mass~~ a plurality of stackable mass members removably affixed to an end portion of the structural member, each mass member having an outer surface, exposed in assembly to provide a conforming outer surface of the mass member substantially matching an outer surface of the structural member so as to provide a handle with a surface hand grip carried by the structural member for custom tailoring balance of the handle.